

Scienza
2
46
4
18
10

MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

JUL 17 1957

LIBRARY SCIENCE
LIBRARY

SUCCESS AND CHALLENGE

The State-Aid Victory.....	Robert H. Rohlf	291
The Past and the Future, District Meetings, 1957.....	David K. Berninghausen	299
The Microfilming Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.....	Willoughby M. Babcock	303
Public Library Finance and Budgets: An Institute.....	Diana Hebrink	305
How Much is Enough.....	Frederick Wezeman	308
National Newspaper Week.....		312
Our Responsibility to Older People.....	Charles E. Haggerty	313
Liberty and Justice Book Awards.....		318
Salmagundi		319

Volume XVIII

JUNE, 1957

Number 10

LIBRARY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

John W. Bystrom, <i>President</i>	Minneapolis
Wayne R. Bassett.....	Worthington
L. L. Huntley.....	Grand Rapids
Mrs. Henry G. Kramer.....	St. Paul
Walter O. Lundberg.....	Austin
Frank J. Petrich.....	So. St. Paul
.....	Vacancy

Dean M. Schweickhard, *Commissioner of Education*
T. J. Berning, *Assistant Commissioner*

LIBRARY DIVISION

Hannis S. Smith, *Director of Libraries*
Ruth M. Ersted, *Supervisor of School Libraries*
Emily L. Mayne, *Supervisor of Extension Library*
A. Rosemary Bowers, *Catalog Librarian*
• Mrs. Frances E. Hughes, *Reference Librarian*
Mrs. Shirley Brazman, *Loan Librarian*
Grace Ivey, *Secretary to Director*
Helen Koci, *Secretary to Supervisor of School Libraries*
Paul Huber, *Shipping Clerk*
Mrs. Lillian Bergjord, *Clerk*

MINNESOTA LIBRARIES is published quarterly by the Library Division, Minnesota Department of Education, St. Paul. Entered as Second Class Matter, October 19, 1911, at the Post Office at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1894. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 1, 1918.

Code XIII—A-1.



The State-Aid Victory

ROBERT H. ROHLF

Legislative Chairman, Minnesota Library Association

INTRODUCTION

Any attempt to summarize or report on the details of our legislative campaign during the past session of the Minnesota state legislature confronts the writer with a good measure of uneasiness because of the many people, ideas and events which were involved under what were often far from ideal circumstances of time, place and opportunity. The fear of inadvertently forgetting someone or something of great importance is uppermost. Never the less, I have agreed to make this report and must ask allowances for any oversight which may neglect any particular person's contribution.

This report does not include the hundreds (or should I say thousands) of miles, letters, telephone calls and personal contacts made by the individual members of the legislative committee and by the many active supporters within the Minnesota Library Association. This is merely an attempt to reveal the major steps which it is believed were responsible for the successful passage of the legislation desired—a state aid program for public library service in Minnesota.

As with most legislative programs, particularly those requiring an appropriation, this one was not successful merely through the work and planning done the past two years. Rather it was successful because of the years of work and many legislative contacts made during the previous two legislative sessions, in which the Minnesota Library Association had also proposed state aid to libraries. The work done in those years, particularly by David R. Watkins, Glenn Lewis, Mrs. J. R. Sweasy, made the efforts this year more fruitful.

The passage of the Library Services Act gave great impetus to our state program. With the new Federal aid potentially available, the Association had a significant new ally with which to combat the greatest foe of a state aid program yet encountered—inertia. With the Federal funds available to improve library service in other states, it seemed only reasonable that our legislators would want some of those funds to be spent in improving library service in our own state. On this premise much of

our planning was based. The Federal aid also presented complications of one type or another and our plans attempted to reduce these to the barest minimum possible.

PRELIMINARY PLANS

November, 1955-May, 1956

Shortly after the 1955 MLA Conference in Rochester the executive board met with the Chairman of the Legislative Committee to begin preliminary planning for the 1957 legislative session. Many of us had been involved in one way or another during the 1955 session and on many occasions we had been able to talk and listen to veteran legislators and lobbyists. From these experiences we formed certain conclusions as to what approach to take in the next session, whom to enlist support from and generally which avenues of approach seemed to indicate success. Our first concern then was, in general, how could we plan our activities to increase our chances, which were slim at best, of successfully presenting a state-aid-to-public-libraries bill.

Our other consideration which was actually more important, was what type of bill should be presented. We had to consider need, area, population, finances, local support and stability of library service in proportion to the total funds which we felt we could realistically hope that the legislature might appropriate. We realized that the final bill would not represent our ideal, but must be a compromise on practical reality and political hope. We were sure of two things: that the bill presented previously was not attractive to legislators, being too long and extremely complicated to understand and administer, and also that with Federal aid on the horizon our bill could well be based on some formula which would match, complement and yet be independent of the Federal bill if one were passed.

From November of 1955 until April of 1956 the monthly executive board meetings were primarily concerned with legislative problems. The general problem of how to get our legislation through successfully was considered first, because until a definite

Federal law was passed or until the time of our Fall Conference in 1956 we would possibly have to revise any legislation which we may have drafted earlier.

One thing seemed clear from the previous legislature. Our big problem was to push the bill successfully through the committees first, and to work for a successful floor vote secondarily. It seemed as though few legislators would oppose libraries on the floor of the legislature if a bill carried a committee recommendation to pass, but many would oppose a "new money bill" in committee meetings. Knowing that our organization was neither large enough nor rich enough to contact again and again in his home district each member of the legislature, we took a calculated risk and laid our plans along these major lines. (1) We would obtain all of our sponsors from the membership of those committees which would probably hear our bill in open hearings; (2) We would repeatedly contact the other members of those committees; (3) We would contact the other members of the general legislature only when time was available to do so and when committee members could not be contacted.

As mentioned before, this was a gamble. Yet we knew that with our limited time and budget, the size and strength of our organization, the political fact that all legislation to have even a chance of passage must first be "recommended to pass" by committees, and the absence of any full-time contact person or even office, we must first sell the committee members on our program. This could actually be called the rifle approach as compared to the shotgun approach, for we aimed at the forty-eight members of the various committees which we thought would potentially hear the bill and not at the 198 members of the combined legislature who, we hoped, would eventually have an opportunity to vote for it.

Another factor which we felt must be covered this session was to have our appropriation, whatever it would be, included in the Governor's budget. Of course we did not know at this time who the Governor would be, but plans were made for this approach at the proper time, and occasional letters were directed to the Capitol, and to various political figures within both of the major parties.

Still another item which was considered

pertained to the necessity of obtaining strong and active support from the various organizations, clubs, and associations throughout the state. A study of support received in the past indicated that any future support should represent rural, urban, civic and political groups of all kinds, and we discussed the ways and means of securing this support.

These seven months then were spent planning the multitude of factors which must be considered before any real hope could be allowed for a successful legislative program. Those items mentioned above are only typical of the many things considered, and admittedly we overlooked some factors of which we should have been aware.

The final weeks of this preliminary planning period were devoted to the first step necessary in our program, enlisting support through the spring district meetings of the association and making our initial contacts with legislators. By studying the names of legislators and the committees on which they had served in previous sessions we had compiled a list of twenty legislators, who, for our purposes, appeared to be the most influential. They served in many cases on two and often three of the committees to which our bill would probably be referred. These men were invited to attend our district meetings. Of course we asked all legislators in the area around each district meeting to attend, but it was these committee members on whom we primarily concentrated.

Nine of these men did attend our district meetings, and it was then that we asked questions, listened, and I think obtained support that was to pay off eleven months later when the next legislative session was nearing its close.

FINAL PLANS

June-September, 1956

The four month period of June through September, 1956, saw the final plans laid for our program. Our concentration at this time was on the specific details of our bill, for we now knew that the Library Services Act was at last a reality. Also, in our discussions with legislators, librarians, trustees and Friends in traveling over six thousand miles within the state we now had a grasp

of the type of bill best suited for the Minnesota situation.

The preliminary drafting of the bill (actually it was more of an outline of the provisions needed) was an education for all concerned. The Association is deeply indebted to Emily L. Mayne of the Library Division who labored for hours to continually supply us with data on finances, population, existing library service, local levies and the other myriad details necessary in drafting an appropriation bill to be used on a statewide basis.

The tentative provisions were finally agreed upon the latter part of August and as usual in legislation of this type represented as perfect a blend of reality and idealism as could be arrived at with all factors considered. These provisions were then mailed to the membership of the Minnesota Library Association for their consideration at the annual conference the last week in September.

During this period many other steps were taken in preparation for the legislature in January. The heads of eleven statewide organizations were invited to attend a luncheon as guests of the association. At this luncheon our association president, past president and legislative chairman presented the outlines of our proposed bill, the need for such legislation, and information on the new Library Services Act. After this presentation there was a general discussion of how this legislation could be passed, the type of support we would need, and the ways in which their organizations could aid us. The groundwork laid and the contacts made through this luncheon were invaluable, and much of our success is due to the cooperation and assistance received from most of these organizations before and during the legislative session.

The last week in August we mailed to all members of the Education, Finance and Appropriations Committees of the last legislature the first of many letters they were to receive outlining our plan, the need for its adoption, and our hope for their support. To our pleasure, many of these legislators replied stating at least some degree of support or at least interest.

That same week we also mailed a letter to over three hundred people throughout the state who over the past five years had agreed in one way or another to work for

a state library aid bill. These letters outlined our plans and asked again for their support. Included was a post card listing various activities by which they could support us. They were asked to return the card to us indicating those activities in which we could depend on their support. These cards, returned during the next month, were sorted out by legislative district and a master list was made from them. The cards themselves were turned over to a member of the legislative committee in or near the district. This master list was used to make repeated mailings over the ensuing five months.

During this period the political parties were preparing their state platforms and contacts were made with party officials to enable us to appear before the platform committees to urge the inclusion of a statement supporting a state library aid program. Here we are particularly indebted to our President, Erana Stadler, who in every sense of the word 'sold' the Republican State Chairman, John Hartle, on our program. Appearing before the platform committee was an experience and an education that I shall long remember. We were fortunate that each party did make reference in their platform to a state aid bill, although we of course would have liked stronger statements than those presented.

It was now time to approach the State Board of Education, since under the administrative organization of the Library Division the board would be responsible for the administration and the standards of any state library aid program. At the September meeting the general provisions of our bill were presented to the board, and its tentative endorsement obtained. After our association had officially approved the bill and the final wording was drafted we were to again approach the Board of Education to obtain its final approval. This approval would mean that members of the Department of Education could testify for us at hearings, that the bill would be officially a department bill, and that for the first time in our many legislative efforts we would have the power and prestige of the Board of Education behind us.

The fall library conference was the last occurrence in this planning period, and at the conference the proposed bill was approved, many questions answered, and I believe a great deal of enthusiasm aroused

that was to carry us into and through the legislative session. The fact that the Governor was a speaker at the formal banquet was not without political implications.

THE LEGISLATURE IS PRIMED

October-December, 1956

With the general provisions approved, our next step was to have the bill drafted in final form. Here we are indebted to Professor Robert McClure of the University of Minnesota Law School, and also to Orville Peterson of the League of Minnesota Municipalities and to Charles E. Houston of the Attorney General's staff. Mr. McClure agreed to draft the final bill, and after his first draft a meeting was held in Mr. Houston's office with McClure, Peterson and several members of the Executive Board of the Minnesota Library Association. At this meeting general questions of legal technicalities were raised and answered, and the nature of such legislation and its effect by and on existing state law were considered. The final draft was then written by Professor McClure who presented it to us the first week of December.

In early October each candidate for the House of Representatives who had survived the September primaries was mailed an information sheet on Minnesota libraries, the outline of our proposed bill and a fact sheet discussing how this bill would affect existing libraries. An addressed postcard was enclosed asking him to check one of two alternatives, 1) support, or, 2) disfavor of this proposed legislation. The letters were mailed by our committee members and local supporters from their own districts. These people having received individual letters ready to be mailed had merely to turn them in to the postoffice and thus have them postmarked from the legislator's district or neighboring district. The response was gratifying and again we had a list to work from, and also an indication of whom we must persuade to help us.

Since this was the even-numbered legislative session, the Senate members did not run for re-election so they were not included in this candidate mailing. The opposing candidates for Governor were contacted however, and we felt reasonably certain of support from the Governor's office no matter what the outcome of that election.

During October and early November we kept in contact with the various organizations which we had previously approached. Members of the executive board and of the legislative committee attended their meetings and each week saw additional organizations officially approving and supporting our new bill.

Immediately after the November elections (in fact the day after) our efforts intensified. Through the invaluable contact of Mrs. Lucy Bangston the legislative chairman traveled to Benson to meet with Mr. A. I. Johnson, the probable Speaker of the House (he had been Speaker in the 1955 session and the Liberals had again obtained a majority). After securing his support we could now count on the backing of two of the most influential men in the legislature, John Hartle, a leader of the conservative bloc, and A. I. Johnson, a leader of the liberal bloc.

The next week letters of congratulations were mailed to each winner of the House of Representatives seats. Included in these letters were another outline of our bill, and various information leaflets on the effect of the bill, existing laws, and the present library situation in Minnesota.

There were also mailed to each returning Senator at this time a copy of our bill, these same fact sheets and a letter soliciting his support for our program.

Again the Governor received a letter, and contacts were made with his executive secretary to include this item in the Governor's budget. Unfortunately communications were not what they should have been, and the Commissioner of Administration, who actually draws up much of the budget was unaware of our plans. Fortunately this was rectified later.

Receiving the final draft of the bill in December we set into motion the last steps necessary before the session began. The State Board of Education gave final approval to the bill at its December meeting, and we now had its official support.

The next step was the mailing of over four thousand copies of the bill and our three information sheets to the legislative committee, the list of supporters compiled earlier, the state-wide organization, and the membership of the Minnesota Library Association. Included with this literature was another request to contact legislators before

they left for the Capitol, and to distribute the material mailed to all the people they could, particularly to their local newspapers. The results indicate that our committee, in fact most of our members, did an excellent job of contact work with the legislators.

A third and last mailing was sent to all of the legislators two weeks before the session began. This mailing contained the same material as the others with the addition of an actual copy of our bill and another fact sheet containing financial facts on our state public libraries. This meant that in addition to the local contacts with the association members, each legislator had received three different communications, the members of important committees four, and their chairmen and the faction leaders five regarding our bill *before* they convened in St. Paul.

Our last official approach was made to the Governor to include a library aid appropriation in the budget, and this time the administration commissioner was included in the correspondence. Shortly after the session began we were pleased to hear that the Governor had included an appropriation of \$375,000 in his budget for a state library aid program. This was only \$25,000 less than our request and we felt fortunate with such a small differential. Thus one more obstacle was overcome before the legislative hearings began.

Meanwhile, we had begun final consideration of our sponsors. One thing seemed obvious in considering a new legislative program. As discussed before, the sponsors must not only feel the program is desirable, but they must have the stature, experience, influence and desire literally to push, and if necessary, pull it through the legislature. Fortunately, we had discussed possible sponsors with both Mr. Hartle and Mr. Johnson and had spent the previous summer analyzing committee membership, legislative experience, type of district represented and numerous other factors of potential sponsors.

I cannot go into the detailed account of how each sponsor was obtained, and in some cases "sold" on our bill, but I believe that it would be interesting to see how the main sponsor in each chamber was secured. It is the main sponsor who must push your program to completion.

It was apparent to the legislative committee that one senator in particular could aid our cause immeasurably. He had served

three previous sessions in the Senate and was a member of the powerful Finance Committee and of the Education Committee. Both were committees to which our bill would be referred. He was a member of the so-called "inner circle" of the Senate, was genuinely admired even by his political opponents, was a member of the Conservative majority and came from a rural area. His interest had been evident from his attendance at our invitation at part of a district meeting the previous spring. This man is Senator Robert Dunlap of Plainview. After a letter and a phone call, an appointment was made to see him in Plainview at the end of December. Miss Stadler and I drove down to see him and after an hour of questions, explanations and discussion of legislative technique, we were not only impressed by the Senator but joyous that he agreed to be the main Senate sponsor. His support was, even then, not fully appreciated, but more about that later. We could sense at least hope in the air now, for before we had hardly dared hope that he would sponsor our bill. After all, the Senate had failed to pass our bills out of even one committee in two previous sessions.

In the House we had a similar problem of who should be our main sponsor. But there we had several legislators who had aided us before, and who also possessed the combination of prestige, experience and committee membership. Through the efforts of Miss Stadler, John Hartle had agreed to sponsor the bill, and through Elsie Grina another outstanding legislator, E. J. Windmiller of Fergus Falls from the Conservative minority, also agreed to sponsor. Now we needed the main sponsor from the Liberal majority. A telephone call to Grand Rapids arranged a meeting for the following week with Vladimir Shipka who agreed to be our lead sponsor in the House. Mr. Shipka had been in the legislature for many sessions, was a member of both the Education and Appropriations Committees, and wielded a strong influence over the Liberal majority.

With the lead sponsors in both houses arranged for, we then secured the others. Our emphasis was still on obtaining sponsors who not only favored our legislation, but also were members of the committees which would hold hearings on the bill. As a result, we had from one to four sponsors

at each hearing on the bill as voting members of the particular committee.

Our sponsors, to whom we will always be deeply indebted, were: Robert Dunlap, Plainview; Walter Burdick, Rochester; and Harold Nelson, Owatonna, in the Senate; and in the House, Vladimir Shipka, Grand Rapids; John Hartle, Owatonna; E. J. Windmiller, Fergus Falls; Mrs. Sally Luther, Minneapolis and Peter Popovitch, St. Paul.

THE LEGISLATURE BEGINS

January-April, 1957

The session began with our hopes higher than ever before. Yet we privately conceded that we had much less than a fifty-fifty chance of success. Money was again the primary concern of the legislature, and here we were with a new money bill which, although admittedly small in the total state budget, still might conjure up visions of mounting future appropriations in the minds of many legislators. Nevertheless, the beginning of the legislature was auspicious for our bill.

On the desk of each legislator when the session opened was a copy of the December issue of *Minnesota Municipalities* which by fortunate circumstance contained an article by Hannis S. Smith on rural libraries in Minnesota. Also there was a reprint of the *Saturday Review* article, "How Good Is Your Library?"; a leaflet entitled "How Good Are Minnesota Libraries?"; a copy of our new bill as proposed, and a leaflet explaining the effect our bill would have on Minnesota libraries.

On the first day that bills were allowed to be introduced, a bill for "an act relating to rural library service" was proposed in the Senate and became Senate File 12. An identical proposal was introduced in the House shortly thereafter and became House File 107. S.F. 12 was referred to the Senate Education Committee for action, and the race was on. We were then some six weeks ahead of where we had been the previous session.

S.F. 12 became the first bill to be heard by the Senate Education Committee. This first resulted from the activity of our lead sponsor, and perhaps in part as an apology by the committee chairman for the treatment accorded MLA two years before. We

felt this to be the prime test for two reasons; this committee had never passed-out a library aid bill before, and if it took favorable action we had not only an excellent indicator of our chances but also we would then have only the Senate Finance Committee to concentrate on.

The day of the hearing dawned clear and bright. We were fortunate in having two very able members of the public who had no official connection with libraries to testify for us. These two citizens, Mrs. J. C. Haas of Rochester and Mrs. Gerald Frick of Fergus Falls, had traveled many miles to be present, and their presentations were excellent. We purposely took less time than the committee allotted, yet our presentation attempted to explain both our bill and the need and desire for it. In order of appearance were: the President of MLA, Director of Libraries, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee; Mrs. Haas, Mrs. Frick, and representatives of five different state organizations with both rural and urban membership. We presented our case as only a cross-section of the support for this bill, and our testimony took twenty-five of the allotted forty-five minutes. We then threw ourselves open to questions, and our lead sponsor, Senator Dunlap, skillfully answered or referred the questions to one of us in turn. At the end of the hearing, the vote came and the Senate Education Committee unanimously recommended the bill to pass and referred it to the Finance Committee. We had our first victory!

This scene was repeated with one variation or another six more times as the bill wound its way through committee after committee, but it always emerged to go on to another. Hearings were held in turn by the following committees: House Education (where it received its first amendment), House Civil Administration, Senate Finance Sub-committee on Education, Senate Finance, House Appropriations, House Appropriations Sub-committee on Education and, finally, the combined conference committee at the very end. Of these, the last four were closed meetings for which we supplied information but could not attend.

Since our bill called for an appropriation we knew that, unless a committee tabled or defeated our bill, we would still have to wait until the last hectic days of the

session before we knew if our bill would pass and how much appropriation it would carry. As the session wore on we tried to keep the membership informed on what was happening, and urged them to continue writing their legislators and talking in favor of the bill at home. The membership responded wonderfully. For once, through concentrated mailings and local contacts, virtually every member of the legislature at least knew of the bill.

Our earlier contacts with the state organizations also paid off. At one time or another members of the following groups testified for, or worked for, or submitted resolutions favoring our bill: AAUW, PTA, Jaycees, Farmers Union, MFWC, Assn. of County Commissioners, AFL-CIO, State Board of Education and State Coordinating Committee. There were letters and resolutions from many library boards throughout the state, and Mrs. Sundberg and Mrs. Walgren of the PTA both outdid themselves on our behalf. To all our thanks.

After our first two hearings, an appeal was mailed to all MLA members to write the members of the Finance and Appropriations Committees which, at that time, held the fate of the bill in their hands. The legislative committee wrote these committee members every week supplying more information each time. Before each hearing, the members of the committee hearing the bill received an envelope both on their desks and in their post office boxes which contained answers to most of the common questions regarding the bill.

In short, the committee members involved received a literal flood of pamphlets, reprints, news clippings and personal letters regarding the proposed "Act relating to rural library services." This may not have been necessary, but we can never know. We also filed with each committee copies of the various endorsements of the bill by other organizations.

THE FINAL DAYS

April, 1957

In April, we could feel our chances improved. The people at home were writing and contacting the legislators. A timed and coordinated flood of literature from the legislative committee and from the other or-

ganizations was having its effect. But now we could only wait and hope.

Senator Dunlap succeeded in doing something we had planned but held little hope for accomplishing. The bill and appropriations were separated and the appropriation made a line item in the budget of the Department of Education. The House followed suit. This meant that our appropriation would be introduced as part of the multi-million dollar education budget and would not be voted upon as an individual item.

The last few weeks of the session found us making almost daily phone calls to our lead sponsors and making personal visits at least twice a week for short talks with our sponsors, other legislators and committee clerks and secretaries. Our bill emerged from the House Appropriations Committee with one week of the session to go. It was passed by a margin of approximately four to one by the House. The recommended appropriation in the Education budget was \$300,000 for the biennium. The day before the Senate Finance Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$400,000.

At this point the Senate incorporated the House bill as its own, and the Education Sub-committees of the two money committees met in conference to settle their differences. On the last day of the regular session these committees agreed upon a figure of \$400,000 for the biennium for the library bill, but the House insisted on adding the rider that only so much of the sum as would be matched by federal funds could be used. The library aid bill was passed as part of the general education appropriation bill at the one-day special session the next day, and the Governor signed it into law the following week.

Three months and thirty days after the session began, Minnesota had its first state aid for libraries. And even though it was not the unhampered bill which we had asked for, victory at last was ours! And as in all victories, ours has its problems, too.

CONCLUSION

Three major things were accomplished with the passage of this bill: (1) The precedent of state aid for libraries has been set; (2) as a line item in the Department of Education budget, with no time limit on the authority, it can now be included in the

appropriation request of the Department of Education in succeeding biennia, and (3) the legislators are more aware of libraries and MLA than ever before in our history.

In the passage of the bill we had been able to avoid two things which had happened to our bills in the past. It was not stopped effectively in committee without having come to a public vote. This had been done in a number of different ways. And we also were able to avoid having the bill die during the last days of the session by a failure to get it put on special orders, or getting it lost in the general orders backlog. For both of these accomplishments we are very greatly indebted to each and every one of our sponsors.

Whether the calculated risks we took, the general nature of our approach, our careful selection and recruiting of sponsors, and the many other decisions involved were all correct we cannot say for certain. For thousands of decisions both large and small were made during those eighteen months. But our bill was as successful as could be hoped for, although it is admittedly not the ideal we would like to see.

The very fact of its passage is a tribute to hundreds of people who worked so hard and with such dedication. I have tried to point out a few and in so doing have been forced to omit others. To Erana Stadler, Emily Mayne, Helen Sweasy and Hannis Smith we owe much. To the many who have worked so hard in the past, some of whom were named earlier, we owe just as much. The bill succeeded, not just because of the legislative committee, the executive board, or any other group, but because hundreds of members of the association did what only too few have done before. They wrote to and talked with their own legislators. And certainly to our sponsors we owe a continuing debt for their vision and perseverance.

We have now a new opportunity for library development in our state. We can work with it and for it. Or, if we wish, we can oppose it by nothing more than inertia. If we fail to take advantage of it, the next legislature may take a less favorable view.

The work is there to be done, and the opportunity is now here to do it. The challenge is ours!

The State Aid Law

Chapter 3, Section 2, Subd. 10, Special Session Laws, Minnesota 1957.

Aid to Rural Public Libraries, so much thereof as may be matched with federal funds, but not exceeding \$150,000 in 1958, and \$250,000 in 1959.

10% thereof for administration and for providing direct library service to rural areas including incorporated or unincorporated places with a population of 10,000 or less. The balance for financial assistance to rural public libraries as defined in Subd. 10.

A rural public library is a public library serving 20,000 or more persons or serving less than 20,000 with the approval of the Commissioner of Education, in a rural area and receiving annually from public funds financial support of at least one mill on the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the area served by the library.

Applications for financial assistance shall contain such information as the department requires including descriptions of rural areas served by the applicant and the number and distribution of persons residing therein; the local plan of the applicant for promoting library service in the rural areas it serves and an estimate of the financial assistance to put such plan in effect, and a statement of the ability of local government within the area served by the applicant to finance operations out of public funds raised by local taxes.

Financial assistance shall be granted to an eligible applicant proposing an economical and practical plan for the promotion of library service in the rural area in such amount and subject to such conditions as the department determines after considering the information contained in the application for assistance and the total amount of state and federal funds available for the promotion of rural library service in the state.

In connection with this appropriation the department shall submit to the United States Commissioner of Education a plan for the extension of public library service to rural areas pursuant to the Library Services Act, Public Law No. 597, 84th Congress, 2nd Session (June 19, 1956) and shall adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the plan.

The Past and The Future: District Meetings, 1957

DAVID K. BERNINGHAUSEN
Director, Library School, University of Minnesota

The 1957 district meetings of the Minnesota Library Association had a common theme, "Know the Past and Look to the Future." Morning sessions were given to discussions of Minnesota history and records, and the afternoon sessions included a report from the State Library Division and a workshop looking to the future. The meetings were held on the following schedule: St. Cloud Public Library, April 25; Faribault Public Library, April 30; New Ulm Public Library, May 1; Fergus Falls Public Library, May 7; Eveleth Public Library, May 9. The hostesses responsible for local arrangements were respectively: Mrs. Merle Lennartson, Esther M. Reinke, Mrs. Ruth Fering, Elsie Grina, and Kathleen McCormick.

At all five meetings Mr. William Stohr, field representative of the Minnesota Centennial Commission, spoke on how librarians can participate in the Minnesota Centennial. Mr. Stohr outlined the program planned for the centennial and described the objectives of the 22 statewide committees. He encouraged librarians to think up ideas of their own and to keep in touch with Anita Saxine, Librarian, Winona Public Library, who is chairman of the centennial's library committee.

Among the suggestions which have been made are the following; submitted by Miss Saxine:

Centennial Story Hours

The regular library story hour could be devoted to Minnesota history and literature during the centennial year. This would range from the Wanda Gag stories and Paul Bunyan to stories of the early explorers and pioneers. When libraries do not have the staff for regular story hours, the librarian might enlist the help of the local centennial committee to secure the necessary volunteers.

Minnesota Books

Most libraries have collections of books about Minnesota and by Minnesotans. This

would be an excellent opportunity to call attention to this fact, and perhaps to add to the collection. Special attention could be called to this collection through posters and exhibits. Some of these materials might be used for a special show window display downtown.

Centennial Library Day

Honor library trustees, citizens and groups in your community who have made special contributions or bequests to your library. (Designate a special day, perhaps the first Sunday in Book Week.)

Historical Tour

Provide information (short library program, talks before groups, or printed literature) for organized tours to historic sites. Encourage some group or individuals to organize such tours.

Book Reviews

Incorporate into programs the review of books by Minnesota authors.

Films

Arrange to show Minnesota films at meetings. For information on films write the Centennial Commission.

Exhibits

Feature Minnesota events, past and present, in special exhibits. Plan a Centennial bulletin board, keeping your public informed about special activities during the year. Start a picture postcard collection of Minnesota scenes for your archives.

Treasure Hunts

Youth groups, as well as adult groups, could be spurred to discover pioneer literature, relics and mementoes of your community.

Statehood Day

Plan early for a special library exhibition for Statehood Day, May 11, 1958.

At the St. Cloud, Faribault and Fergus Falls meetings Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of newspapers for the state Historical Society spoke about "Old Newspapers and Microfilms." He described the project of his department, which is aimed at preserving on microfilm every newspaper in the state. The library has a collection of 25,000 volumes of bound newspapers and receives 540 current publications regularly. Mr. Babcock explained that newspapers before 1870 were best preserved because they had been printed upon rag paper, but that the wood pulp paper of later years is disintegrating. In 1948 the work of microfilming negatives which can be reprinted and distributed to libraries was started, and its value and importance has been clearly recognized.

The 67 members of MLA who attended the Faribault meeting were especially privileged, for at two o'clock Robert Rohlf, legislative committee chairman, arrived from the Twin Cities with a final, conclusive report on the action taken by the legislature on the library service bill. (At St. Cloud we still had not known what was going to happen.)

Mr. Rohlf told us that the legislature had passed our proposed bill providing up to \$400,000 for the next biennium, the total to be determined by the federal funds available to Minnesota. For example, if federal aid provides \$300,000, then the state will match it with another \$300,000 for developing rural library service. It is therefore extremely important to continue to urge Congress to restore the federal appropriation to the full \$7,500,000 originally proposed. Miss Lucille Gottry, Rochester, urged all librarians to write Senator Thye thanking him for his support of the full appropriation. As a ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee his support is particularly important, and we are grateful for his work in support of the \$7,500,000.

Minnesota librarians and friends of libraries can be properly proud of these results of ten years' efforts to provide funds for developing library service in rural areas. The American Library Association has campaigned for ten years to have a federal aid bill passed, and both ALA and MLA are to be congratulated for their successful efforts.

The importance of our professional associations are thus dramatically illustrated. Only about two-fifths of the people who call themselves librarians in the United States belong to ALA, but everyone of them benefits from professional activities of this kind which make possible extensions of library service to our citizens who have not had them.

As a result of the efforts of MLA and ALA we now see the actual possibility of library service throughout our state. Depending upon the willingness of our counties to cooperate, it is now possible to provide library service which gives direct access to central collections of 100,000 books and adequate magazine and film collections for every Minnesotan. Coordination of these services can be planned and directed by fully qualified professional librarians, and library standards of every kind can be improved for the welfare of everyone.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to a series of reports and a workshop session. Mrs. J. R. Sweasy, Red Wing, President of the Minnesota Trustees, reported on the activities of the trustees and the plans for a Trustees' Pre-Conference Workshop at the Kansas City Convention of ALA. Mr. D. K. Berninghausen or Miss Erana Stadler reported for MLA at the meetings. The big news was, of course, the passage of Minnesota's first state aid for public libraries, as detailed by Mr. Rohlf at Faribault. Congratulations were extended to all who had worked so hard and long for this happy event, and the Association's official thanks extended to the legislators and to the many organizations which had lent their support to the library aid bill.

The report of the Library Division was presented by Hannis S. Smith and Emily Mayne. Mr. Smith reported that Minnesota could boast of being one of the first four states to have its Plan under the Library Services Act approved in Washington. It shares a simultaneous "first" on this with New Hampshire, Connecticut and Michigan. And it shares with Michigan the simultaneous "first" in qualifying for and receiving the \$40,000 federal allotment for fiscal 1957. He also reported the progress of the Library Division in securing additional personnel, purchasing more books and equipment, and acquiring two demonstration bookmobiles.

Mr. Smith said, "Now it's up to us." It is indeed up to all Minnesotans who understand the values and benefits of library service to work for the organization of multi-county units if we are to effectively use the opportunity now before us.

Miss Mayne's report covered the many state wide and area meetings which she and Mr. Smith have been holding to explain the opportunity for local participation in the library development program. They have visited and discussed matters with people from over fifty different counties. Local groups and individuals are working in eleven different counties on possible uses of aid funds in their areas. And more new interest is being shown all the time.

The remainder of the afternoon session was planned as a workshop to discuss the next steps in how to develop multi-county units. Some of the questions discussed were extremely interesting. For example, "Must there be a librarian with a master's degree in every small community?" "Will bookmobiles be forced upon us when we don't really need them?" "How much will it cost the average farmer?"

Discussion brought out that while professionally qualified librarians would be required in each library system, the smaller libraries will be staffed with the current people, and the benefits of centralized routines for acquisition and cataloging will make possible much better use of the time of the local workers. In-service training, and the opportunity for anyone, regardless of college background, to study basic courses in library science in the summer and evening sessions of the university will help to improve library service in every area. Of course, bookmobiles will not be forced upon anyone. They will be used only where they best meet the needs of the people. The cost to the farmer-tax-payer will be less than the annual cost of a subscription to *Life* magazine. Many people have not yet understood the values of a library service which provides 100,000 books, 100 or more magazines, and audio visual services, all for the price of one magazine.

The workshop discussions helped by answering such questions, and they also helped all of us to see what the next step should be in a particular area of the state. In some places there is already a going organization to plan for a multi-county library. In this

case, exploration of the attitudes of county commissioners or legal difficulties may be the next step. If there is not yet an organization, then the first step is to interest leading citizens in the benefits of good library service. We have already been taxed for the federal funds, and if Minnesota communities do not choose to use this money it will be lost to us.

The workshops brought out many interesting and important points. In some places the Boards of County Commissioners feel that they will establish library service if a hearing shows sufficient interest. In such counties, local library enthusiasts are working to gather good county-wide representation at such a hearing. These people feel that the most important support for the library will come from organizations and their representatives. In other areas, a county-wide library committee has been organized to promote that county's participation in a library system created in cooperation with neighboring counties. There were interesting agreements and disagreements among the suggestions offered by the workshop reports:

Most reports agreed that there should be a county-wide steering committee to coordinate the library campaign, furnish publicity and other information, and hold meetings.

The reports varied in their opinion of when to involve the County Commissioners. Some felt that it should be from the beginning. Others felt that they should keep the commissioners informed of their interest, but not actually involve them until there is a sufficient amount of interest aroused to impress them.

Agreement was universal that an effort should be made to involve as many organizations as possible. The PTA, Federated Women's Clubs, Farm Bureau, and Farmers' Union have all supported the federal legislation and are interested in the state program. Local chapters or clubs should certainly be contacted if they are not involved in the movement from the beginning (as they have been in some counties). The Junior Chamber of Commerce has its project "Operation Library" which is a natural to fit in with the new library development idea. Civic clubs, community councils, agricultural extension, public school officials, and various other educational groups were

all mentioned as potential sources of support or as already participating in the library development movement in various counties.

There was also universal agreement on the use of informational brochures, and some places are using or intending to use 16mm sound films to promote the library idea.

Mr. Smith closed the afternoon sessions with a strong charge to those present. He emphasized that this is not a program "handed down" from state level. Local initiative must take the lead in developing

local library service. The State Library Division does not tell any community or area what it must do. The standards which apply are general so that each area must work out its own plan for a library system. The people from state level can and will help in every way they can, but in the final analysis local developments have been and always will be the responsibility of local people. All we need to do is to think of "local" as meaning our county and its neighbors rather than just our own neighborhood, village or town.

Rules Governing Library Aid Program

The following principles and factors govern the granting of rural library aid by the Board of Education:

Sec. I. Library Services Act Regulations:

1. The aid funds must be used only for public library services.
2. The aid funds may be used only in areas where there is no public library service or which are inadequately served.
3. The aid funds may not be used to benefit services in cities of 10,000 population or more.
4. The aid funds may not be used for the purchase of land or the construction of buildings.
5. The aid funds must be spent under supervision of the Library Division of the Board of Education, the application must specify the purposes for which the aid funds will be used and they must be used for the purposes for which granted.
6. The use of aid funds must be reported to the Library Division of the Board of Education in such a way that it can be determined that the grant was spent for the purposes for which given.
7. If funds are not spent for the purposes for which granted, the Board of Education must withhold grants.
8. Local funds available for public library service in the area must at least equal public library expenditures in the area in 1956.

Sec. II. Minnesota State Plan Provisions:

1. The area to be served by the library system receiving aid must include rural areas and must include one or more counties.
2. The library system to receive aid must have a legally constituted and appointed library board.
3. The plan of library service proposed for the system must meet minimum standards of personnel, services, book-stock, and equipment.
4. The library system must be under the direction of a fully qualified professional librarian.

Sec. III. Legal Provisions of Minnesota Law (Ch. 3, Sec. 2, Subd. 10, Special Session 1957).

1. There must be a minimum one-mill tax levy assessed against the entire area to be served by the library system.
2. The application must include a description of rural areas to be served, the number and distribution of the population, an economical and practical plan for the development of public library services, an estimate of the amount of financial assistance necessary to put the plan of service into effect, and a statement of the ability of the area to finance operations out of public funds raised by taxes on the area served.

Priorities For The Granting of Rural Library Aid

The following priorities are adopted as governing the granting of aid funds:

1. The practicability and economy of the plan, including the potentiality of the area for continuing the operation of service after the aid program ends.
2. The number of persons which the proposed library system will serve, the proportion now unserved, and the proportion now inadequately served.
3. A higher priority will be given library systems which serve more than one county.
4. The economic need of the area to be benefited relative to the need of other areas making applications.
5. The date the application is received in the Department of Education.

The Microfilming Program of the Minnesota Historical Society

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK

Curator of Newspapers, Minnesota Historical Society

Can you prove that you were born? What action did the board of county commissioners, the village council, or the school board take at the meeting on a specific date some ten years ago? Has legal publication of notices concerning that lawsuit or the probate of an estate been made? What was going on in your community some seventy-five years ago, or even during the past week? For these and many other subjects one naturally turns to the local newspaper, whether daily or weekly, large or small, for the newspaper is the contemporary chronicler of community events and so is preserving a record of history while it is being made. Thus the preservation for her people of the newspapers from Minnesota's cities and towns is of vital importance. A two-line item in a "locals" column, reporting the birth of a child may at some time in the future enable that very person to secure a job, qualify for social security, or establish heirship.

Community libraries as well as county historical societies and institutions like the Minnesota Historical Society have a tremendously important duty to perform in collecting and preserving files of the community newspapers for future generations. Hundreds of Minnesota cities and towns, now progressed to respectable ages of fifty, seventy-five and even a hundred years need to look back over their years of growth, possible stagnation, or even decline, in order to see what has made them tick, and make plans for the future. Many places, once thriving communities, have completely disappeared from the map, and yet people lived and worked there. In many instances the only surviving record of their lives is to be found in the yellowing files of a long extinct newspaper preserved in the newspaper collections of the Minnesota Historical Society or in some library in the vicinity.

Collecting, binding, and preserving newspapers, however, presents serious problems of space, shelving, and cost. For the sake of reasonable safety against loss and vandalism, as well as for ease of handling, files of newspapers must be bound, and binding costs in

recent years have skyrocketed. The average bound volume, containing from one month of a newspaper like the *Minneapolis Tribune*, up to as much as two or three years of a small weekly, measures approximately 20 by 30 inches, is some two inches thick, and weighs some five or more pounds. Normal library book shelving will not accommodate such volumes (which must be filed horizontally to protect the binding), nor can a small library afford to devote the required space to special wide and strong shelves. Newspapers since the late eighteen seventies have been printed on wood pulp paper which deteriorates rapidly under the joint effects of light and air. The great 25,000-volume Minnesota newspaper collection of the Minnesota Historical Society is kept in darkness except when attendants must secure volumes for readers, and yet many of these papers are literally disintegrating as the years go by. What then, is the solution of the problem of preserving old newspapers? The answer is microfilming! Photograph the papers in miniature on special long-life film, and the text of the originals will be preserved for posterity long after the paper itself has crumbled to dust.

In 1946, the Minnesota Historical Society, faced with dual problems of finding shelf space for upwards of 25,000 bound volumes and a current weekly accretion of some 800 issues in newspaper stacks calculated to accommodate some 22,000, and at the same time protect this unrivaled collection against deterioration, presented a microfilm program to the legislature. An appropriation was secured for the purchase of a large Recordak microfilm camera, reader, and materials, and the salary of one operator.

Microfilm operations were begun on a small scale in March of 1948, and the project has been carried on steadily since that time. Subsequent legislatures have made available adequate funds for purchase of materials as well as the employment of a second operator. The generosity of the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch*, and the Minnesota Editorial Association provided us with a second cam-

era and other needed equipment.

One camera has been continuously employed upon a tremendous backlog of unbound issues and current incoming papers, while the second, larger camera is working upon the bound volumes. No binding has been done since the summer of 1946. On flat unbound newspapers, an operator can average between three and four microfilm rolls per day, while bound volume work runs about two rolls per day because of the time lost in breaking bindings and difficulty in handling damaged and deteriorating pages. The weekly production runs about 25 one-hundred-foot rolls, averaging something better than 1200 newspaper pages per reel. In other words, a single roll of microfilm, measuring 4 by 4 by 2 inches will contain from one month of a Twin Cities' daily to as much as three years of a small weekly paper, but occupies less than one-thirtieth the space of a single bound volume. A single ten-drawer steel filing case the size of a legal correspondence file will accommodate some 600 microfilm rolls. What a tremendous saving in shelving space!

Microfilm when properly made and processed is considered to be good for from 200 to 500 years, according to the Bureau of Standards, far longer than the life of the original newspaper. So permanence is assured. Furthermore, once a basic negative is made, any number of positive microfilm prints can be run off as needed, and thus replacements can readily be secured if anything should happen to the roll in a local library or newspaper office. By application to the Minnesota Historical Society, too, individual paper prints of special pages can be secured at small cost by photographic enlargement from the original 35-millimeter microfilm negative frame. Such prints, when duly certified by Society officials are normally accepted by the courts as evidence.

Microfilming is not inexpensive. Estimates indicate that it costs about \$15 to make a hundred feet of negative roll, reckoning in raw film, salary of the operator, and upkeep on the equipment. Newspaper publishers, however, report that they can actually save money on binding costs by microfilming rather than binding their files for the office. The microfilm rolls of Minnesota newspapers going into the files of the Minnesota Historical Society, being done out of state-appropriated funds, constitute a basic public collection, available for study

and for reproduction in positives for anyone who may desire such. Under our plan, the Society absorbs the cost of making the initial negative, and then is willing to supply positive prints at a moderate price, currently \$10 for a hundred-foot roll containing the aforesaid 1,200 or more pages. The photographing has been done on a straight chronological basis, without attempt to terminate each roll at the end of a month or other specific period. Master record cards in the Newspaper Department show exactly the dates covered by each roll of film, and the reference numbers.

Up to the time of this writing some 3,100 negative rolls of microfilm have been made, amounting to something like 3,750,000 newspaper pages. Most of the work has been accomplished upon the unbound semicurrent issues, but substantial progress has been made upon the earlier bound volumes, particularly upon the wood pulp copies in the worst condition. We have no set schedule in filming the papers, as to towns, and if there is a specific request for the filming of the entire file of a certain paper, we can ordinarily arrange to make such a run. With approach of the centennial year it is probable that various newspapers and libraries will want to make the microfilming of the papers of their towns a centennial project, and we shall do all in our power to assist with such a worthwhile program. The local newspaper and the library may well combine on such an undertaking.

As stated above, our usual charge for positive rolls is \$10 per roll, and the library or newspaper will need a microfilm reader to bring the tiny 1½ by 1½ inch newspaper frames up to normal reading size. Such readers (we prefer Recordak equipment) cost approximately \$350 f.o.b. Minneapolis, but the upkeep is negligible save for the occasional replacement of the light bulb. Readers work best in a partially darkened place, and we are building a series of small curtained booths similar to voting booths for that purpose.

Some people object to microfilms as being hard on the eyes, but newspaper scanning is equally tiring, and the advantages of permanence, ease of replacement, and economy of storage space far outweigh the disadvantages. We shall be glad to supply detailed information as to what we have on film and to cooperate to our utmost with the librarians considering a microfilm program.

Public Library Finance and Budgets

An Institute

DIANA HEBRINK*

Former Librarian of the Kandiyohi County Library

"If you have something good and you sell it to the public right, they'll buy it." These were the opening remarks made by Harris Stevens, Finance Director, Oak Park, Illinois, at the 2nd Annual Public Library Institute held at the University of Minnesota Library School on April 5th and 6th. The Institute, under the direction of Frederick Wezeman, Associate Professor, at the University of Minnesota Library School, and Harris Stevens, and with the cooperation of the Library Division of the State Department of Education, and the Minnesota Library Association, had as its theme, "Public Library Finance and Budgets."

The purpose of the Institute was to examine methods and developments for the formulation and presentation of the budget for public libraries of all sizes. Techniques of increasing library income by budget preparation and planning, library service costs and their relation to budget preparation, special problems in connection with budgeting for larger units of service, methods of performance budgeting, additional sources of revenue, and other problems of adequate library service financing were among the topics discussed. The Institute program included a budget preparation clinic and workshop where staff and board participation in budget planning, techniques of the business office, and other problems common to public libraries of various sizes were discussed.

All public librarians, trustees, and others concerned with, or interested in, library matters were eligible to attend. The registration fee was \$5.00, excluding meals, and was transferable. Sixty-three librarians and assistants, 11 trustees, and 45 students and faculty members from libraries and schools representing 10 states including, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, attended the two day Institute.

After registration and a coffee hour, beginning at 9:30 A.M., those in attendance at the Institute were welcomed by David

Berninghausen, Director of the University of Minnesota Library School. Harris Stevens gave the opening address, "Techniques and problems of public library budget preparation." He stated that budget preparation and administrative planning are synonymous, and that budgeting provides for periodic review. Therefore a performance budget, one which places emphasis on the services or activities of the library, is a more adequate type of budget than a line budget, which stresses item by item control and limitation. The budget is more than a statement of estimated expenditures. It represents dollar values placed upon a work program or plan for municipal service. Budget review is an account of stewardship. Budget planning includes what to do, how, when, and the appraisal of what has been done, and what needs to be done. A work program or work load and its description plus a basic budget consisting of services and commodities necessary to complete the program are necessary in good budget preparation.

The morning session concluded with a luncheon at Coffman Union.

"What does public library service cost?", was the topic presented in the first afternoon session by a panel moderated by Erana Stadler, Director of the Owatonna, Minnesota, Public Library and President of the Minnesota Library Association. The first topic, "Reference and information costs," was presented by Gerald Sommers, Director of the Public Library at Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He stated that reference and information costs must be determined in terms of the time spent in answering patron questions. Therefore these costs are extremely difficult to measure. Ready reference and advisory questions are less costly than the research type. The skill of the librarian plus the reference tools available determine the efficiency of reference service. Increase in the total number of questions answered will warrant increase in reference personnel and therefore reference costs.

Robert Hamilton, director of the Hayner

*Miss Hebrink will join the staff of the Library Division of the Minnesota Department of Education, in June, 1957.

Public Library, Alton, Illinois, discussed, "Cataloging costs." He said, "Cataloging costs cover that portion of the cost of placing a book on the library shelf so that it can be used. True costs include ordering, cataloging, processing of the catalog cards for the book, and making sure that the catalog cards are properly filed." Catalog costs involve about 7-12% of the total library budget. It has been determined that it costs between 75¢ and \$1.00 to put a book into circulation. This represents time only and not overhead or the original cost of the book. Centralization and mass production of cards and standardization of cataloging procedures affect cataloging costs and will reduce them if put into effect. Hamilton stated that, "The greatest savings in cataloging costs may be had through centralization of the process." He also stressed the need for work measurement and cost accounting principles so that cost figures may be had.

"Circulation costs" were explained by Donna Victor, University of Minnesota library student. Book circulation for home use represents by far the major public service provided by the public library. It takes approximately three minutes to charge and discharge each book circulated. This is equivalent to five cents per book for circulation performed by the clerical staff. Therefore centralized circulation is necessary to keep costs at a minimum. The assignment of routine circulation, discharge, and shelving to clerical help will cut circulation costs, as will mechanical charging systems.

J. Archer Eggen, Director, St. Paul Public Library, considered, "Plant construction and maintenance costs." He stated that the local situation dictates the cost of maintenance. Approximately 7% of the budget is needed for janitorial service, and new building costs are between \$10-20 per square foot. A library should be designed in the best contemporary style of architecture of one to two stories without steps. It should be functional and clean. The interior function will dictate the exterior appearance. Display facilities are a necessity, and library furniture should be considered expendable.

After a coffee break a panel discussion on, "Public Library Budget and Finance," was moderated by James Marvin, Director of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Public Library. The panel consisted of a library board mem-

ber, Harry Bradt, of the Martin County, Minnesota, Library; a library director, Alma Jacobs, Great Falls, Montana, Public Library; and Harris Stevens, budget analyst. The panel pointed out that there are many inter-relationships with the city hall, board members, commissioners, staff, the public and patron, and the public library and its director. The library needs to be interpreted to city hall. The library director needs to work with other department heads in his city or county, so that each in turn knows the needs of the community to be able to plan types of services. The program of the library also needs interpretation to the library board. In budget planning an early start is essential, so that items can be examined separately and weighed in the balance of total need. The staff needs to be in on the planning so department needs can be incorporated into the budget. Mr. Stevens stated that we cannot shrink from our responsibility; we must "roll with the punch"—live with existent social values and keep up with them. The promotion and publicity items must be in the budget.

The Friday evening dinner meeting was held at 6:00 P.M. at Coffman Union with Mrs. Preston Haglin, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Minneapolis Public Library presiding. She especially welcomed the trustees attending the Institute and dinner. Mr. Frederick Wezeman's address, "How much is enough—Public library budgets in an inflationary era," was a highlight of the Institute, and is printed in full in this issue of *Minnesota Libraries*. Mr. Wezeman stressed the convictions which we, as librarians and trustees, must have about the vital, necessary, and important functions of the institutions which we represent. Library board and staff members are appointed to "Get tax money and guard the public library." We need partisan library board and staff members who will work for superior library service. There are many "success items" in the library which we should incorporate into the budget to help promote the library such as: books, public relations, cooperation or out-reach, survey or analysis, gifts, bequests, memorials, and non-resident fees. In conclusion he emphasized the importance of the cooperation, federation, and linking of libraries.

Adjournment at 8:15 P.M., as planned, permitted the audience to attend concerts or the theatre.

Saturday morning the members of the Institute divided into four workshop groups according to the size of library represented. Recorders reported back to the group from each workshop session. James Marvin conducted the workshop for libraries with 10,000 population and under, with Mrs. Charlotte Nelson, Assistant to the Director, University of Minnesota Library School, as reporter. This group investigated the problem of fund getting—for expansion, salaries, general expenditures, and audio visual material. Other problems examined included insurance, federation with County Libraries, and individual cataloging versus contract catalog card buying. A \$30,000 sample budget was distributed for study.

Alma Jacobs and Harris Stevens guiding the 10-100,000 population group had Assistant Professor Wesley Simonton of the Library School, as recorder. The group treated the promotional items of the library and the need for their inclusion in the budget. The use of outside help in promotion, and the dramatizing effect of annual reports and budgets were disclosed.

Glenn Lewis, Director of the Minneapolis Public Library, and Dan Williams, Des Moines, Iowa, Public Library Director, lead the 100,000 population and over session, with Raymond Shove, Associate Professor, Library School, reporting. The large city library workshop members treated the role of the staff and staff participation in the budget making process, performance budgeting and fixed millage rates, and the over extension of service to non-supporting groups, such as those outside of the taxing unit.

The County and Multi-County units group had Hannis Smith, Director of Libraries, Minnesota Department of Education, as leader, and David Berninghausen, as

recorder. Mr. Smith stated that there is little difference between county and multi-county budgeting. Centralized "housekeeping and chores" with decentralized service is the operational pattern of a county library. Performance versus line or category budgeting was discussed. An operational budget reflects the purpose of the library. Adequate postage, telephone, in-service-training for branch and station personnel, bookmobile maintenance and amortization items must be considered when budgeting. The Kent County, Michigan, library budget was also examined.

A discussion and question session followed the workshop reports.

The Institute concluded Saturday afternoon with a luncheon, and meeting of the Minnesota Library Association County Libraries Section at Coffman Union.

Following the Institute, questionnaires were sent to those in attendance. The replies indicated that performance budgeting was adequately presented and clearly explained. More sample library budgets and individual participation was suggested. Mr. Stevens' opening address and Mr. Wezeman's dinner speech received the highest acclaim. Items that librarians would like to review in future institutes included: personnel, publicity and public relations, and buildings, furnishings and equipment.

Brigitte Lingk, graduate student of the Library School, prepared a selected list of books and periodicals on public library costs, budgets and finance for the Institute. This annotated bibliography is available from Ortha Robbins, Treasurer of the Minnesota Library Association, St. Anthony Branch Library, St. Paul 22, Minnesota, for 30¢ in stamps or coin.

News Flash

The ALA Washington Office has notified the Library Division that the Congress has passed a \$5,000,000 appropriation for the Library Services Act for the fiscal year 1958 (July 1, 1957-June 30, 1958).

The Minnesota share of this is \$111,448, which will require matching in the sum of \$95,589. This means that Minnesota will have a total of \$207,037 in aid funds for implementing the Minnesota Plan for Further Extension of Public Library Service to Rural Areas. A portion of this will be spent at state level, but most of it will be used to aid in the development of multi-county library systems.

How Much is Enough

Public Library Budgets in an Inflationary Era*

FREDERICK WEZEMAN

Associate Professor, Library School, University of Minnesota

One of the interesting and unusual characters on the American political scene is Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense. He has a reputation for speaking out on occasion, and has given the newspaper men material for some first-page stories. Mr. Wilson tells the story of the mother whale who told one of her little whales — "Remember, dear, it's when you're spouting that you are in the greatest danger of being harpooned." I feel that spouting on this subject of public library budgets will cause some of you to sharpen your harpoons.

There should be some very definite and strong convictions behind every public library budget. What are some of these strong convictions of library board members and librarians which should back up the budget? The public library is a vital, necessary, and important educational institution of the community. The public library is not a frill, not just a nice thing, but necessary, vital and important. Do we as library board members and librarians have this conviction concerning the public library budget?

All about us are evidences that we are living in an economy of abundance, and not an economy of scarcity. We see mounds of empty tin cans, cars are discarded and junked, highways are torn up, old buildings are demolished. The story is told of a Texan tourist who stopped at a Florida roadside fruit stand. The Texan placed his hand on a watermelon and asked the owner of the Florida fruit stand, "How much is this cantaloupe?" The Florida man looked coldly at the Texan and said quietly, "Sir, take your hand off that olive."

The public library cannot thrive, grow and do a competent job in an economy of scarcity. The public library needs sufficient money to carry on its work. Library board members and librarians must have convictions regarding the necessity of an economy of abundance for the public library.

Library board members and library staff members are elected or appointed or hired not to save, but to spend money for public library service. Some public library board

members are under the delusion that they are appointed to the library board to guard the tax dollar, or to save tax money. They are not appointed to save tax money, or to guard the tax dollar, but rather they are appointed to the library board TO GET TAX MONEY, AND TO GUARD THE PUBLIC LIBRARY. Often, the public library is the only haven for the economically and socially dispossessed of the community. One of the daily customers of the Oak Park, Illinois Public Library was an elderly lady. One day as she stopped at the circulation desk to greet the staff members, she looked at the flowers on the desk and said, "Those flowers aren't very good; I'm going to bring you some beautiful flowers this afternoon." Sure enough, in the afternoon she appeared with a magnificent large bouquet. The staff members chided her for buying expensive flowers. "Oh," she replied, "that's all right, they had a first-class funeral at the church next door, and I just picked out the best flowers for the public library." The public library cannot carry on its vital, important, and necessary educational job in the community in an economy of scarcity, but only in an economy of abundance. The public library needs the best in books, personnel, and physical equipment. The library board members and the librarians should share the conviction of that elderly lady — "only the best flowers for the public library."

In the midst of a battle for public library funds, how often have we heard library board members or librarians say, "Yes, but we need money for schools, or for storm sewers, or for the police department, or for the fire department, or for recreation, etc." Library board members and librarians are appointed or elected, and are expected to be partisan to the needs of the public library. Other people are appointed or elected to serve the interests of the schools or other city departments.

Another conviction of library board members and librarians regarding the public library budget, should be that we wish to strive for superior public library service.

*An address given at the 2nd annual Public Library Institute "Library Finance and Budgets" April 5-6, 1957. University of Minnesota.

Further, superior public library service is not free, but costs money and can be expensive. We should not be interested in a budget which will provide mediocre or poor library service, but rather in a budget which provides superior library service.

As we think back regarding the various library board members we have worked with, we find that the one thing which the superior or outstanding library board members had was not their status in the community, but their convictions regarding public library service. A tradesman, a housewife, an executive of a large corporation; outstanding board members because they held some or all of these convictions regarding public library service and the public library budget.

So often, as we are engaged in the struggle to obtain adequate public library budgets, we say, "Oh, if we had a more library-minded city council or mayor, or county board of supervisors." Many British librarians felt that when Labor obtained control of the government, and the Tories were out, that the public libraries would grow and prosper. As one British librarian told me last summer, "We prayed and worked for a Labor victory, and now that Labor is in, we are no better off than we were before under the Tories." On the proscenium arch of the Goodman Theatre of the Art Institute of Chicago is written, "You, yourself must set flame to the faggots which you have brought." Why talk about the city council, the mayor, or the county board? The important question is what are the convictions of the library board and library staff regarding public library service?

Does the library board and the library staff whole-heartedly believe that the public library is a vital, necessary, and important educational institution in the community; that the public library can only prosper, grow and make an effective contribution in an economy of abundance, and not in an economy of scarcity; do they believe that library board members and staff members are elected or appointed or hired not to save money, but to get and spend money for public library service; are they partisan to the needs of the public library, and do they strive for superior public library service?

I am constantly reminded that the Library School of the University of Minnesota is in the agricultural heartland of America.

One of the librarians in Iowa wrote and said that she wanted very much to attend this institute, but that her baby chicks would be "set out" just at the time of our meetings and the chicks would have to be taken care of. We know that a farmer can take very good care of his livestock and keep up his equipment and buildings, but if he neglects to spend some money for fertilizer, all his other efforts will in time fail. The fertilizer item of the farm budget is small in comparison to other items, but it is a vital necessity for long-range farming success. So also in the public library budget we have certain items which we can label as "success items of the budget." May I say, that I am fully aware of the importance of personnel — you can't have a good farm without a farmer, you can't have a good library without a librarian, but I would like to comment on these other "success items" of the public library budget. These items are not the largest items of the budget. They are important far in excess of their size, and they are often neglected. They have a catalytic or fertilizing role in the public library budget.

Money for books is a success item of the public library budget. We know if a retail store, either through fear or poor judgment permits its inventory to fall below a certain point, that eventually the customers will disappear and the store will fail. I fear that all too many public libraries in the Middle-West, have permitted the book budget to be unduly pirated for the salary item, and the book inventory has gone down to the danger point. Remember books have doubled in price since the war. Has your book budget doubled? Books represent one of the best self-advertising items of the library.

How much does your library spend for book, reading and library use promotion? In a sense, the public library often has a monopoly position in the community, and yet in another sense, the public library is engaged in one of the most competitive areas of American life; the use of leisure time. Every bowling alley, cocktail lounge and T.V. set is our competitor in the sense that the library user can do many other things besides making use of the library. How much money do we spend to tell the people of the community about the new books coming into the library; about the other resources of the library; about our

reference and information service; about the great rewards of a personal reading program? Usually the publicity item is a few hundred dollars; it is labeled "printing" and covers a few booklists as well as the library stationery. An adequate unit of library service requires a full-time, professionally trained, person to carry on the book, reading and library use promotion campaign of the public library. This item is one of the most important "success items" of the public library budget.

Another success item of the public library budget can best be labeled "cooperation or outreach." Unfortunately it is lacking in most budgets. When we view the map of public library operations, particularly here in the Middle-West, we see small isolated bibliographic units, all operating on their own, with no cooperation between units, nor any linking of units by means of modern means of communication. A few years ago the Racine Public Library installed a teletype in the Racine and Milwaukee Public Libraries, and established a daily messenger service for bringing books to Racine from the Milwaukee Public Library. Suddenly a community of about 75,000 population had access to a great collection of books, magazines, pamphlets, films, pictures, etc. and indirectly to the services of a much larger staff. How much did this cost? Measured in one way, it was an expensive service. The cost per book borrowed was over one dollar. Measured another way it was only less than a one percent outlay of the total Racine Public Library budget. The Racmil or cooperation outreach item of the budget was a "success item" of that public library budget.

A few short years ago I visited the Shorewood, Wisconsin, Public Library. Shorewood is a suburb of Milwaukee with a population of about 20,000. I have never seen a better looking book collection in any public library. The Shorewood Public Library had decided to contract for all of its book service from the Milwaukee Public Library. It spent \$18,500 per year with the Milwaukee Public Library and thereby dispensed with all of the burdens of technical processes and solved completely the problem of book obsolescence. The cooperation item of this public library budget was the success item of the library budget.

Sometimes I ask the library students in

the Library Administration Class a test question such as this: "Name some of the important duties of the library board." One student answered: "Library board members should be the long distance worriers for the public library." I like that answer. The student got an A on that question. The chief librarian is concerned, to a large part, with the day-to-day administration and operation of the library; the library board is concerned with long range planning and the solution of long range problems. What is your library board doing about the problem of serving the growing unincorporated areas or suburban areas of your city or village? Is there a cooperation or outreach item in your library budget? It may represent money coming in as well as money going out. Have you considered the possibility of hooking up to other nearby libraries, of sharing professional personnel, of pooling resources?

Another "success item" of the budget is the analysis, research, or survey item. So often public library operations and services are tradition bound, and are not subject to analysis, research, and surveys. From time to time we should analyze or survey our operations, our materials, our buildings to find out where we stand and where we want to go. The analysis item of the public library budget could provide for an overall survey of the entire institution; it might provide for funds to bring a competent outside person to confer with the staff members and to offer suggestions and ideas; it might provide for a travel fund for the use of a staff member to visit and observe in another institution, and to pick up new ideas and methods.

Another "success item" of the public library budget is listed, not on the outlay side of the budget, but rather on the income or revenue side of the budget. Gifts, bequests and memorial books represent a great and virtually untapped resource for additional public library funds. It may be that if in the future the competition for the tax dollar becomes too acute, that we will have to increase or institute fees for special services from the public library. Certainly public library services to other tax-supported institutions such as schools should be on a fee or contract basis.

Recently I called the Park Board offices in Minneapolis and inquired what the daily fee rate would be on the municipal golf

course. This season it will cost \$1.65 to play a game of golf on the municipal courses. A season ticket can be purchased for approximately fifty dollars. Depending on your age, a membership in the local Y.M.C.A. costs from sixteen to thirty-five dollars a year. But a public library non-resident card for one year of public library service can be obtained for two dollars. If we set a value of two dollars on a year's use of the public library how can we expect appropriating authorities to countenance costs of fifteen dollars a year per borrower when we submit our budgets. Somehow we have been saddled with the designation of "Free" Public Library, and some people have gotten the impression that public library service is free, that is, it costs nothing. The reason we studied library costs at this institute was not primarily to find ways to reduce these costs, but rather that we might recognize and know what the cost of the service is that we are trying to provide.

Museums supported by public funds charge admission on certain days. If we cannot raise our non-resident card rate to the proper amount to cover the cost, we might decide to charge from twenty-five cents up per circulated book to non-residents. There is no reason why suburban or rural dwellers should continue to have free or subsidized library service provided for them by the city real estate taxpayer.

How can every public library, regardless of size, introduce these success items into their budgets? It can be done by cooperation, federation, or linking. Some librarians are perhaps thinking that the success items of the budget are beyond the budget of the small or even medium sized public library. But instead of remaining small isolated

units of library service, we can join up together and do cooperatively those things which we cannot do individually. We can improve our book budgets by cooperative pooling of our book resources, by cooperative book purchase schemes, by tying in with the book resources of some nearby college or university. We can provide an advertising, book, reading or library use promotion item in our budget by perhaps joining up with nearby public libraries to promote such a necessary project. We can promote the federation of libraries whereby we can obtain all of the advantages of the larger unit of service and still retain our individuality and autonomy. And we can also link together a few librarians so that the materials or professional personnel are shared and the cost of such services pro-rated to size of budgets.

Recently I read this statement in Jan De Hartog's book, "A Sailor's Life" — "As every adolescent knows, not to be something yet is a very frustrating experience." All of us, librarians and board members alike, do have convictions regarding the importance of the public library and the need in our society for superior public library service. At the same time, we have grave misgivings concerning the present place of the public library. Somehow we feel that we are not in the main stream of American life, but that rather we are a sort of forgotten byway institution. Let us renew our convictions regarding public library service. Let us introduce and reinforce the success items into every one of our public library budgets. In every public library, regardless of size, we can introduce the success items into the budget by the processes of cooperation, federation, and linking.

College of St. Catherine

Beginning with September of 1957 The College of Saint Catherine, Saint Paul, Minnesota will offer an undergraduate major in library science. Interdepartmental majors will also be available, as for example a combination of library science with American studies, chemistry with library science, French language and literature with library science, etc. Students strongly interested in a special field are urged to look into this program. The graduate program is being continued only for those presently registered.

reference and information service; about the great rewards of a personal reading program? Usually the publicity item is a few hundred dollars; it is labeled "printing" and covers a few booklists as well as the library stationery. An adequate unit of library service requires a full-time, professionally trained, person to carry on the book, reading and library use promotion campaign of the public library. This item is one of the most important "success items" of the public library budget.

Another success item of the public library budget can best be labeled "cooperation or outreach." Unfortunately it is lacking in most budgets. When we view the map of public library operations, particularly here in the Middle-West, we see small isolated bibliographic units, all operating on their own, with no cooperation between units, nor any linking of units by means of modern means of communication. A few years ago the Racine Public Library installed a teletype in the Racine and Milwaukee Public Libraries, and established a daily messenger service for bringing books to Racine from the Milwaukee Public Library. Suddenly a community of about 75,000 population had access to a great collection of books, magazines, pamphlets, films, pictures, etc. and indirectly to the services of a much larger staff. How much did this cost? Measured in one way, it was an expensive service. The cost per book borrowed was over one dollar. Measured another way it was only less than a one percent outlay of the total Racine Public Library budget. The Racmil or cooperation outreach item of the budget was a "success item" of that public library budget.

A few short years ago I visited the Shorewood, Wisconsin, Public Library. Shorewood is a suburb of Milwaukee with a population of about 20,000. I have never seen a better looking book collection in any public library. The Shorewood Public Library had decided to contract for all of its book service from the Milwaukee Public Library. It spent \$18,500 per year with the Milwaukee Public Library and thereby dispensed with all of the burdens of technical processes and solved completely the problem of book obsolescence. The cooperation item of this public library budget was the success item of the library budget.

Sometimes I ask the library students in

the Library Administration Class a test question such as this: "Name some of the important duties of the library board." One student answered: "Library board members should be the long distance worriers for the public library." I like that answer. The student got an A on that question. The chief librarian is concerned, to a large part, with the day-to-day administration and operation of the library; the library board is concerned with long range planning and the solution of long range problems. What is your library board doing about the problem of serving the growing unincorporated areas or suburban areas of your city or village? Is there a cooperation or outreach item in your library budget? It may represent money coming in as well as money going out. Have you considered the possibility of hooking up to other nearby libraries, of sharing professional personnel, of pooling resources?

Another "success item" of the budget is the analysis, research, or survey item. So often public library operations and services are tradition bound, and are not subject to analysis, research, and surveys. From time to time we should analyze or survey our operations, our materials, our buildings to find out where we stand and where we want to go. The analysis item of the public library budget could provide for an overall survey of the entire institution; it might provide for funds to bring a competent outside person to confer with the staff members and to offer suggestions and ideas; it might provide for a travel fund for the use of a staff member to visit and observe in another institution, and to pick up new ideas and methods.

Another "success item" of the public library budget is listed, not on the outlay side of the budget, but rather on the income or revenue side of the budget. Gifts, bequests and memorial books represent a great and virtually untapped resource for additional public library funds. It may be that if in the future the competition for the tax dollar becomes too acute, that we will have to increase or institute fees for special services from the public library. Certainly public library services to other tax-supported institutions such as schools should be on a fee or contract basis.

Recently I called the Park Board offices in Minneapolis and inquired what the daily fee rate would be on the municipal golf

course. This season it will cost \$1.65 to play a game of golf on the municipal courses. A season ticket can be purchased for approximately fifty dollars. Depending on your age, a membership in the local Y.M.C.A. costs from sixteen to thirty-five dollars a year. But a public library non-resident card for one year of public library service can be obtained for two dollars. If we set a value of two dollars on a year's use of the public library how can we expect appropriating authorities to countenance costs of fifteen dollars a year per borrower when we submit our budgets. Somehow we have been saddled with the designation of "Free" Public Library, and some people have gotten the impression that public library service is free, that is, it costs nothing. The reason we studied library costs at this institute was not primarily to find ways to reduce these costs, but rather that we might recognize and know what the cost of the service is that we are trying to provide.

Museums supported by public funds charge admission on certain days. If we cannot raise our non-resident card rate to the proper amount to cover the cost, we might decide to charge from twenty-five cents up per circulated book to non-residents. There is no reason why suburban or rural dwellers should continue to have free or subsidized library service provided for them by the city real estate taxpayer.

How can every public library, regardless of size, introduce these success items into their budgets? It can be done by cooperation, federation, or linking. Some librarians are perhaps thinking that the success items of the budget are beyond the budget of the small or even medium sized public library. But instead of remaining small isolated

units of library service, we can join up together and do cooperatively those things which we cannot do individually. We can improve our book budgets by cooperative pooling of our book resources, by cooperative book purchase schemes, by tying in with the book resources of some nearby college or university. We can provide an advertising, book, reading or library use promotion item in our budget by perhaps joining up with nearby public libraries to promote such a necessary project. We can promote the federation of libraries whereby we can obtain all of the advantages of the larger unit of service and still retain our individuality and autonomy. And we can also link together a few librarians so that the materials or professional personnel are shared and the cost of such services pro-rated to size of budgets.

Recently I read this statement in Jan De Hartog's book, "A Sailor's Life" — "As every adolescent knows, not to be something yet is a very frustrating experience." All of us, librarians and board members alike, do have convictions regarding the importance of the public library and the need in our society for superior public library service. At the same time, we have grave misgivings concerning the present place of the public library. Somehow we feel that we are not in the main stream of American life, but that rather we are a sort of forgotten byway institution. Let us renew our convictions regarding public library service. Let us introduce and reinforce the success items into every one of our public library budgets. In every public library, regardless of size, we can introduce the success items into the budget by the processes of cooperation, federation, and linking.

College of St. Catherine

Beginning with September of 1957 The College of Saint Catherine, Saint Paul, Minnesota will offer an undergraduate major in library science. Interdepartmental majors will also be available, as for example a combination of library science with American studies, chemistry with library science, French language and literature with library science, etc. Students strongly interested in a special field are urged to look into this program. The graduate program is being continued only for those presently registered.

National Newspaper Week

October 1-8, 1957

Many librarians are planning to participate in the observance of National Newspaper Week, October 1 to 8, which has for its theme: "Your Newspaper—Freedom's Key to Better Living." The sponsor is the Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., national press association managers.

In a letter to the Newspaper Association Managers, Ralph R. Shaw, President of the American Library Association (who is Professor, Graduate School of Library Service, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.), said:

"Your 1956 theme will strike a responsive chord among all who believe that we 'live better' when we make full use of the information, education and entertainment which newspapers diligently provide. Librarians, of course, know this well and are devoted to developing resources and services which go hand in hand with the newspaper's endeavors."

In a message to librarians, ALA Associate Executive Secretary, Grace T. Stevenson says that librarians may wish to consider these reasons for participating in the observance of National Newspaper Week:

1. The theme is closely related to many aspects of librarianship.
2. Participation provides an excellent opportunity for librarians to become better acquainted with the newspaper men of their communities so that there may result long-range mutual benefits.
3. Reports from many libraries of virtually every size on their participation in the last three years' observances indicate the effort was deemed well worth-while.

For those librarians who wish to take the initiative and who see participation in National Newspaper Week as a good opportunity in their public relations endeavors, the following suggestions are given as ways in which they might cooperate:

1. Call your daily and weekly editors and

tell them you would like to participate in the observance. They might be invited to meet with you to plan the events.

2. Ask the editors if they would wish to supply exhibit material and posters for your library. This exhibit would also include books and other materials relating to Freedom of the Press and to the growth and development of newspapers nationally and locally. It might include examples of "better living" features of newspapers.
3. Your trustees might wish to hold a luncheon or open-house function with local newspapermen as guests. As a feature of the get-together, there might be a tour of the library with special emphasis on the reference resources which could be of frequent assistance to editors and reporters.
4. Hold discussions based on films such as FREEDOM OF THE PRESS (United World Films), or FREEDOM TO READ (Center for Mass Communication, Columbia University) or on the Freedom to Read statement and similar documents. Invite editors to take part.
5. Offer to write a letter or guest editorial for your local papers on the joint responsibilities of editors and librarians in the area of ready access to "better living" services provided by newspapers and libraries such as vocational and business assistance, help with home and family problems, entertainment, and cultural enrichment.
6. Work National Newspaper Week material into your library's bulletin and radio spot announcements.
7. In your cooperative endeavors, show the relationship between the "better living" opportunities provided by newspapers and by libraries and how they complement each other.

Our Responsibility to Older People*

CHARLES E. HAGGERTY

Librarian, Danville, Illinois Public Library

I should like to invite your interest and attention to one of the most challenging problems facing the library of today and of tomorrow. It is a problem that claims our attention today as public servants; tomorrow it will involve our interests as participants and recipients. Let us, therefore, focus our attention for the next few minutes on service to our aging population.

I hope that no one will ask me when a person begins to get old. If you do so, I will probably not be able to give as illuminating an answer as the mother who was once asked, "How old is your son?" Physically he is ten years old," she replied. "Emotionally, he's about seven. Intellectually he's fifteen. Counting birthdays," she continued, "he'll be nine years old next week."

Perhaps most of us would agree that age is a relative matter. There are many individuals who are physiologically younger at 65 than others at 50, and some are more mentally alert at 70 or 80 than many are at 30 or 40. It is also evident that psychological aging does not necessarily parallel age in years, for attitudes toward life constitute a major aspect of aging.

According to the Social Security Act of 1935, those 65 or over are of retirement age. Theoretically they are the group of whom we are speaking. As a convenience, therefore, we will accept this prevalent age limit and speak of those 65 or over as "senior citizens" or older people. Yet we must keep in mind individual differences both physical and psychological as well as the gradual population shift to the upper age bracket.

Our Population Is Growing Older

Unless we wish to hide our heads like the proverbial ostrich, we must recognize that a silent yet dramatic revolution is taking place in America. I grant that it is not broadcast on the radio or television nor is it headlined in the daily papers. In fact most people are not aware of this far reaching change and its implications. This revolution to which I allude is the prolongation of life for an increasing number of our people.

It has been said that the average life of man at the time of the Roman Empire was about 23 years. By 1900 the life expectancy in America had increased to 47 years, and in 1955 it is approximately 68 years. An average life span of 75 years by 1965 is predicted by some experts.

Looking at these statistics in another way, we may state that in 1860 one out of every 37 persons in the United States was over 65 years of age, and in 1945 one out of every 14 was beyond that age. Statisticians further estimate that by 1980 one-seventh of our population will be 65 years or over.

This shift in population is significant. About 1900 we were a young nation. Forty-four percent of our people were under 21 years of age and only four percent were over 65. The picture is rapidly being reversed. Young people under 21 now constitute only one-third of our population instead of nearly one-half. This steady increase in the upper age bracket presents many challenging problems to our whole social structure, the library included.

Concepts Change

Within the last two decades our concept of older people has undergone a definite transformation. We had, I think, an exaggerated notion of their physical decline, of their tendency to slow down. In noting the changes that did take place, we often assumed a corresponding decline of the mental processes. Out of these misconceptions we have evolved our stereotyped old person. He was one who withdrew from normal activity and who was contented to putter around and engage in aimless whittling or in rocking chair reveries.

This stereotyped picture influenced in no small measure our thinking on nearly all levels of service. It is reflected in the retirement laws of 1935; but today leaders in many fields object to mandatory retirement at 65 and seriously question the premises on which much of our earlier thinking was based.

Modern research and the development of gerontology has done much to revolutionize our concept of older people. We now know

*Printed with permission from *Illinois Libraries*, May, 1955.

that physical deterioration is not as rapid as has been supposed, and that by following a wise health program one may not only extend the period of life and vitality but may also protract his capacity for physical effort.

Intelligence Does Not Decline

Another myth that is being exploded is that older people cannot learn new things, remember well, nor think clearly. It is true that there may be a decline in hand-eye coordination, speed of learning and of rote memory and a few other traits, but it is not infrequent that this becomes an excuse for lazy mental habits formed earlier in life.

The significant studies of Thorndyke, Miles, Jones and others dispel the idea that learning ability is confined to youth. An individual of 60 or 65 can learn the same kinds of skills, knowledge and appreciation as he could at 20 or 25. As a whole the mental processes continue to hold up. A bright person of 20 does not become a dullard by 70. Even if older people do memorize more slowly, it is often true that they memorize more accurately than many younger people. With the accumulation of experience it is likely also that judgment based on knowledge and experience improves with age.

There is some evidence that the peak of mental processes comes late in life, perhaps in the decade between 60 and 70. Many of our presidents and other statesmen, business executives, educators and other leaders fall into this age bracket. Though most of us may not be able to rival Winston Churchill, Toscanini, Einstein or Grandma Moses in achievement, we do have a more promising outlook than we did a decade ago.

Needs of Older People

Studies of old age problems point up certain basic needs as essential to those over 65. Discussions with a number of older persons tend to confirm these points. These fundamental needs are:

1. To continue as a participating, recognized and useful member of the community.
2. The need for emotional security—for kindness and understanding, for affection, companionship and romance, and for normal family relationships.
3. Financial independence and security.

4. Adequate living arrangements suitable to their needs.
5. Good medical and psychiatric service to maintain health and prolong life.
6. Opportunities to work and earn, commensurate with ability to do the job.
7. Opportunities for guidance in constructive use of leisure time.
8. Opportunities for religious expression and experience.
9. Recreation.
10. Adequate facilities to care for the chronically ill.

Frequently our older citizens face these needs as well as serious adjustment problems of which we are often unaware. Many of us know 14 year old boys and girls who have difficulties in adapting to our complex civilization and we say, "Well, it is just because he is an adolescent." But have we ever stopped to think about the periods of adjustment at the other end of the age scale? Many of our senior citizens go through periods of frustration, fear, insecurity and loneliness just as perplexing as those of adolescence.

Our Institutions Oriented Toward Youth

For the past century or more, our social viewpoint has been oriented toward youth. It appears that most of our attitudes and social institutions have been developed with reference to an essentially young population. This has been particularly true of our educational and recreational activities and facilities, of our employment policies, our medical specialties, social services, religious institutions and even our libraries. We have now arrived at that point where we need to reexamine the situation and modify our thinking and attitudes accordingly.

Library service to children has been a major area of activity for more than half a century, and more recently we have laid great stress on service to teen-agers. I would not desire to minimize service to either of these groups, for I am as thoroughly converted to adequate service to young people as anyone. Nevertheless, I do believe that in too many cases our adults have been neglected in our library service.

The Library Awakens

Only within the last decade or so has the library become aware of the educational needs of its senior citizens and interestingly

enough it was not librarians but people in the field of social work who awakened us to this problem.

In 1946, a worker from the Cleveland, Ohio, Welfare Federation suggested that the Adult Education Department of the Cleveland Public Library institute an experimental program in informal adult education for older people. Cleveland had a number of community programs for this age group, but they emphasized recreational and pastime pursuits rather than educational activities. Acting on the assumptions that learning is a lifetime activity, that the library has a responsibility in helping to provide informal education to adults over sixty, and that the library could make a contribution in work with senior citizens, the Public Library agreed to the experiment.

The initial meeting was held November 12, 1946, under the name of the *Live Long and Like It Club*. Its primary aim is to help keep the older people actively participating members of the community. In planning the program certain basic considerations were kept in mind. First, the leaders felt it important to offer a wide variety of programs so as to appeal to the varied interests of their audience. Second, library materials including audio-visual aids were used to the full in these programs. Films, for instance, were shown at nearly every session. Through book displays, book lists, and other means the people were brought into contact with books and many became borrowers for the first time.

Results of the Experiment

Success of the experiment has exceeded all expectation. From an initial membership of 25 in 1946, the enrollment had grown to 785 by 1951 with an average attendance of 200. Other large city libraries soon followed the example of Cleveland. In 1949 both the Chicago and Detroit Public Libraries instituted special programs for older people. The Minneapolis and Boston Public Libraries in 1950 and the Milwaukee Public Library in 1951 began similar activities. In 1952 the Brooklyn Public Library organized a Senior Citizen's group and the Oakland Public Library initiated activities under the direction of the Library's Gerontology Committee. Some libraries do not have independent programs for older adults but do have a definite system of cooperation with com-

munity agencies that concern themselves with this age group.

To date results have been encouraging. Libraries with the most intensive educational programs report observable and gratifying results from their programs. Among the results noted are a widening of reader interests, increased interest in current problems and world affairs, increased ability and a new willingness to express themselves, and a definite development of interest in creative activity. Not only have the attitudes and mental health of the participants improved, but even physical changes are sometimes observable. These educational programs herald what promises to become a field of library activity as important and as far reaching as that with young people.

Program For Smaller Libraries

I can imagine some of you are thinking: that is fine for the large libraries, but what about the medium sized and small libraries? What can we do? That is the question each library must answer for itself. It will depend upon the initiative of the librarian and the active support of the Library Board. Many will find that the answer will involve more community cooperation and increased cooperation between libraries of a given area. If we are wide awake and willing to tackle the problem there is much we can do. The large libraries have no monopoly on these activities—they merely point the way.

The need for a program exists in many communities, but it is obvious that such activities cannot be carried on without qualified personnel to handle them and adequate resources to implement the program. There is every reason to believe that the small libraries of an area could cooperate and possibly hire a trained person to plan and administer a program adapted to the local needs. Perhaps the smaller libraries can contract with larger neighboring libraries for such services on a part time basis.

Types of Activities

The club type of activity has been described briefly in connection with the Cleveland Public Library. The activities involved are varied. The general programs cover many subject areas and include talks by experts in various fields, musical numbers, films, excursions, hobby shows, parties, and the like. Among the special interest groups

are the Music Lovers, Book Review Group, Around the World in Cleveland Group, and the Experience Exchange. These activities are supported by such ancillary services as library exhibits, book lists, and general reader guidance.

Many of these activities can be carried out in the smaller towns and branches of medium sized libraries. Group functions as described above can be held in many smaller libraries. Music and art appreciation lectures, classes and tours are feasible, and in many places persons interested in painting, for instance, may get together to study or exhibit their work. Discussion groups on social problems, current affairs, great books and the like are popular in some libraries. As a rule these groups are relatively small for there is usually less opportunity for individual participation in a large audience. To these may be added the informal talks, verbal and illustrated lectures, musical and dance performances, and similar activities in which the audience plays the role of spectator.

Libraries may not only stimulate group work, but may also assist individuals who are seeking self-improvement. Here is where the reader guidance service can be employed to advantage. And libraries of all sizes can give some measure of reader guidance! In the main this will consist of personal contact in which the librarian may discover the interests and needs of the patron, help him plan a systematic program of study, and guide him to the materials available in the library. If the library does not possess the needed materials, the librarian may often borrow them from the state library extension agency by interlibrary loan. The Adult Education Unit of the Illinois State Library, for instance, has a sizeable list of study courses to choose from and will lend the books necessary for each course. A number of public and private agencies throughout the country have study outlines available at a minimum of cost.

Many libraries make subject bibliographies useful in this work, but there are a few special types I would like to suggest as being of interest to older people and those who work with them. First, is a bibliography of books on the social, educational, emotional, physical, economic, religious and recreational problems of older people. There is a growing demand for this type of ma-

terial. Since many people of retirement age are blessed by an abundance of enforced leisure, it is important also to have lists of books on many hobbies and other leisure time activities.

Service Beyond the Library

The problem of getting the people and library materials together assumes enlarged proportions when one is dealing with our senior citizens. For those who come to the library, the problem is not so complex. But what shall we do concerning those who live in fringe areas, in institutions, or who are homebound?

In many cities and rural areas, book-mobile service brings books and other materials to the more remote districts. This service is particularly valuable when human contacts as well as books are limited. The important point is that the bookmobile can make available to all a representative selection of choice library materials. If one is a bed or wheelchair patient, there is usually someone who can select and bring him an armload of books.

In some cities volunteers, either adults, or young people from service organizations as the Boy or Girl Scouts, will take books to an invalid who has no one to bring them to him and later return them to the library. These callers provide a welcome break in the often monotonous day. A few libraries will send out books by mail, especially to rural patrons.

People who are institutionalized are often served by collections of books placed in the institution by the library. These books are changed frequently so that a fresh supply of reading material is readily available. In some of the institutions the bedridden patients are served by "ceiling books," a device in the form of a reflector which projects the printed page on the ceiling thereby making reading possible for one who is unable to hold a book in his hands. For those with failing eyesight we have the large print books and the talking books which are so often used for the blind.

The aim of our social institutions is to meet as far as possible the needs of these people who have been paying taxes for more than half a century and who have contributed their bit, great or small, to our way of life. We need to conserve these human resources with their energy, skill and

their rich store of accumulated experience and wisdom. We have a definite obligation to repay to them our debt of gratitude and service. Many of these are our loved ones, and the day is approaching when we, too, will be classified as older people. As li-

brarians we need to be alert to the implications of this great social process and be prepared to do our part in serving this important segment of our population. There is much that can be done, and we still have much to do.

Minneapolis Board Appoints

Raymond E. Williams, assistant director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, was appointed Tuesday, April 23, by the Library Board of Minneapolis as successor to chief librarian Glenn M. Lewis. Mr. Lewis is slated to retire November 12.

Sixth to head the library in its 71-year history, Mr. Williams was chosen after a nationwide canvass by a Board committee made up of Mrs. Mildred Daunt Haglin, Helen L. MacDonald, James L. Morrill, president of the University, and Mrs. Dorothy Atkinson Rood, president of the Library Board.

"The appointment of Mr. Williams as a successor to Mr. Glenn M. Lewis as chief librarian of Minneapolis is the result of months of work," said Mrs. Haglin, committee chairman. "The committee hoped to find a librarian who would carry forward our tradition of superior librarianship and service to the people of this community. There was genuine nationwide interest in the position and we believe we have chosen the man whose experience and training best fit him for the job ahead. He has a Minnesota background as both his parents graduated from the University of Minnesota. He seems very much pleased at the prospect of bringing his family back here to live."

Born in LaGrange, Illinois, in 1916, Mr. Williams spent his boyhood in the East, attending grade school in Summit, New Jersey. He received his A.B. in history and education from Lehigh (Pa.) University and his B.S. in library science from Syracuse University. Work for his master's degree, which he received from Syracuse, was done there and at Johns Hopkins University. He is a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, and of two honorary societies, Pi Lambda Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi.

Mr. Williams began his library career at Rochester (N. Y.) Public Library, going from there to the Hartford (Conn.) Public Library as assistant to the director.

Called into service in January 1942 he served with the Navy as junior engineering officer on the USS Hornet and Iowa, and as torpedo and gunnery officer on the submarine, USS Tambor. He holds the present rank of lieutenant, USNR.

Following his release from the Navy in 1946 Mr. Williams was appointed director of the Steele Memorial Library and Chemung County Library in Elmira (N. Y.). In the next two years as a member of the legislative committee of the New York library association and later as president, he led a successful campaign for a plan for county and regional library service.

From 1948 to 1951 he served as first regional librarian of the Watertown Regional Library Service Center. This project helped to pioneer a type of state-local library cooperation which has affected subsequent American library development.

Appointed assistant director of Enoch Pratt Library in 1952, he has had specific charge of business operations, maintenance and the 20-year \$6,500,000 library building program. Coming to Baltimore to find three library branches under construction, he oversaw their completion and acted as library spokesman for the remodeling of two more branches, as well as the airconditioning of the main library.

Following this he took charge of the planning and construction of three more branch libraries, one of which has just been completed.

"The Library Board is delighted to find a man with so much experience, not only in library building but also in county and regional library service, two problems which confront this library," declared Mrs. Rood. "Minneapolis has had as librarians men and women who have enjoyed long tenure and who have used it to pioneer in library development. Mr. Williams is a young man whom the Board expects will carry out our library program in the same progressive pattern."

Liberty and Justice Book Awards

The American Library Association Thursday night (April 25) presented the first ALA Liberty and Justice Book Awards of \$5,000 each to William H. Whyte, Jr. for "The Organization Man" (Simon and Schuster); Alpheus Thomas Mason for "Harlan Fiske Stone: Pillar of the Law" (The Viking Press, Inc.); and James T. Thurber for "Further Fables for Our Time" (Simon and Schuster).

The awards were made at a ceremony held in the Donnell Library Center of the New York Public Library (20 West 53rd Street).

Robert B. Downs, Chairman of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, Director, University of Illinois Library (Urbana), who presided, said that 225 books published in 1956 were submitted for the awards which were made possible by a grant to the ALA by the Fund for the Republic. Similar \$5,000 awards will be made by ALA next year for three books published in 1957 which "make distinguished contributions to the American tradition of liberty and justice."

"The Organization Man" won for William H. Whyte, Jr. in the category of Contemporary Affairs and Problems (non-fiction). Honorable mention was awarded Margaret Mead for "New Lives for Old" (William Morrow & Co., Inc.). Judges for this category were: Herbert Brucker, Editor, Hartford (Conn.) Courant; William O. Douglas, Associate Justice, U. S. Supreme Court; and Margaret Chase Smith, U. S. Senator from Maine.

"Harlan Fiske Stone: Pillar of the Law" won for Alpheus Thomas Mason in the category of History and Biography (non-fiction). Honorable mention was awarded the late Zechariah Chafee for "Three Human Rights in the Constitution of 1787" (University of Kansas Press) and "Blessings of Liberty" (J. B. Lippincott Co.); Walter Gellhorn for "Individual Freedom and Governmental Restraints" (Louisiana State University Press); James Morton Smith, for "Freedom's Fetters" (Cornell University Press). Judges for this category were: Julian P. Boyd, Professor of History, Princeton University; Margaret Clapp, President, Wellesley College; and Henry S. Commager, Professor of History, Amherst College.

"Further Fables for Our Time" won for James T. Thurber in the category of Im-

aginative Literature (fiction, poetry or published drama). Honorable mention was awarded: Borden Deal for "Walk Through the Valley" (Charles Scribner's Sons); David Karp for "All Honorable Men" (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.); Shirley E. Pfoutz for "Whipping Boy" (Julian Messner, Inc.); Reginald Rose for "Six Television Plays" (Simon and Schuster); and Elizabeth Spencer for "Voice at the Back Door" (McGraw-Hill Book Co.). Judges for this category were: Arna Bontemps, Librarian, Fisk University; George R. Stewart, Professor of English, University of California; and Allen Tate, critic and poet.

Areas of interest in the categories were set forth by ALA as: "Freedom of speech, press and association; tolerance for individual social, religious and cultural differences; equal opportunity, the Bill of Rights; censorship; restrictions on personal liberty; the anti-libertarian threats of dictatorship and totalitarianism; pressures for conformity."

Downs said that the "purpose of the ALA Liberty and Justice Book Awards is to draw attention of Americans to outstanding books in this important area; to encourage authors and publishers in creating such books; to recognize those who do so."

On the prize-winning books and their authors:

William H. Whyte, Jr. in "The Organization Man" analyzes society by tracing the life of a middle-class American who, the author believes, is at the center of a deep conflict in American values. Whyte is the 40-year-old Assistant Managing Editor of *Fortune Magazine*; author of "Is Anybody Listening?" (1952).

"Harlan Fiske Stone: Pillar of the Law" is the first full-dress biography of the twelfth Chief Justice of the United States. It covers the history of the Supreme Court and its transformation during the 21 years of unprecedented change (1925-1946) during which Stone was on the bench. The famous cases in which Stone played a significant part are analyzed. The author, Alpheus Thomas Mason, has taught courses in political theory and constitutional law at Princeton University since 1925 and has been McCormick professor of jurisprudence since 1947. He is author or co-author of many books including: "Bureaucracy Convicts Itself," "Organized Labor and the Law,"

"Free Government in the Making," and "Brandeis: A Free Man's Life."

James Thurber, well-known humorist, short story writer, cartoonist and playwright, in "Further Fables for Our Time" studies the faults and foibles of modern man in 42 fables, which he also illustrates. Many

of the fables appeared in *The New Yorker*, to which Thurber has contributed since 1926. Among his many writings are: "The Male Animal," a play, with Elliott Nugent; "Is Sex Necessary?" (with E. B. White); "My World—and Welcome to It," "The Thurber Album," and "Thurber Country."

S A L M A G U N D I

Progress Report

There are three kinds of progress to report in the development of the Minnesota program under the Library Services Act. The first relates to the staff of the Library Division, the second to work in progress at the Division, and the third to developments out in the state.

On June 17, Miss Diana Hebrink, formerly librarian of the Kandiyohi County Library, joins the Library Division staff as a Field Advisor. Miss Hebrink's principal duty will be to help in the work with county officials, library boards and citizen groups in working for, organizing and developing rural library systems under the aid program. She is a graduate of the Library School of the University of Minnesota and has taken additional graduate work there in library extension. Her experience in county library work including bookmobile operations further make her a valuable addition to the Library Division staff, and we are looking forward with pleasure to having "another head and pair of hands" to help with the rapidly expanding requests coming in for local meetings and planning.

Those who have visited the Library Division offices are probably wondering where we are putting the new people who have joined the staff. The solution of this is one of the big jobs of the summer, and books and furniture are being shifted and rearranged. More compactly is not the right expression for this. We were already just about as compact as we could get. But we do hope to wind up with more useful and just as convenient an arrangement. One important project in this readjustment is

a long needed revision of the Library Division card catalog. The present triple alphabet (author, title, subject) is being condensed into one. We have secured the temporary assistance of Miss Dorothy Nelson, librarian of the Hazel Park Junior High School in St. Paul, to complete this project.

The big news, of course, is the continuing enthusiasm being shown in the prospect of using aid funds in various multi-county areas. Committees are already organized and working hard in 14 different counties. In others the interested people are just getting started. Since a high priority will be given by the Board of Education to proposals for multi-county library systems, it is especially important that almost all of the active groups are proposing systems covering two or more counties.

There is a good prospect that successful campaigns can be reported from several counties by the next issue, since a number of Boards of County Commissioners are planning to take formal action on the tax levy in July.

Range Trustees Meet

The Arrowhead District Library Trustees held their annual banquet following the library district meeting at Eveleth on May 9. Over 150 trustees were present. Hannis Smith, Director of Libraries in the State Department of Education was the featured speaker. He presented the idea of a "dream library system" which would serve the entire 8th Congressional District consisting of six counties. Mr. Smith outlined a general plan,

stating that it was imminently practical and economical even though it may be just a dream at present. He concluded by saying that the attainment of such a dream would require energetic enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and good will on the part of everyone concerned.

Hibbing Addition

The new wing of the Hibbing Public Library, containing the Children's Department, will have been completed by the time this issue goes to press. It is a spacious and gracious addition to their beautiful new building.

Public Relations

"Their public relations are showing" can be said of many of our public libraries these days. A scrapbook of Minnesota library publicity so far during 1957 would rival an encyclopedia volume for size. Some recent public relations and cultural activities which have come to our attention are the following:

The Alexandria and St. Peter public libraries held teas to call attention to the library and its services. The Alexandria event was especially notable for featuring "Do-It-Yourself" activities in the community which were tied in with featured library materials.

Two Friends of the Library groups held community wide meetings in May. The Stillwater group had Mrs. J. R. Sweasy, Red Wing trustee, as their featured speaker

and heard about the exciting new prospects for multi-county library development. At Golden Valley the group heard from Helen Young, Librarian of Hennepin County, and Mrs. C. W. Bryan and Sarah Wallace of the Minneapolis Public Library, in a discussion of future library development in their community.

The Anoka Public Library board observed Arbor Day by planting a tree on the library grounds and as a result received some excellent front page publicity.

We have been seeing a series of excellent celebrations of the 50th anniversaries of public libraries, but county libraries are new. The Isanti County Library seized the occasion of its 10th anniversary for an observance which attracted much favorable publicity for the library. A part of the celebration was an "open house" with refreshments.

The fact that regular library activities, which occur occasionally, can be excellent sources of library publicity was demonstrated at Rochester, Owatonna, Waseca, and Winona. At Rochester the library cooperated with the local AAUW in presenting a puppet show. At Owatonna, the Fifth Annual Steele County Art Exhibit, featuring fifty-five local artists, was held in the public library. The Waseca Library held the third annual exhibit of the Waseca Art Class featuring work by people from Waseca and the surrounding area. At Winona, the public library exhibited oil and watercolor paintings by Mrs. L. Jack Pickett, a local artist.

All in all, these are busy times in libraries.